

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1316

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 1691

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, XG

SUBJECT: CSCE POLICY: INFORMATION-WORKING CONDITIONS FOR
JOURNALISTS

REF: A) GENEVA 1557; B) GENEVA 1391; C) GENEVA 569

1. AFTER TWO WEEKS OF INFORMAL TALKS, AN INFORMAL
AGREEMENT SEEMS POSSIBLE ON FOURTH PARA (TEXT BELOW) IN SUBJECT
PAPER. SOVIETS AND OTHERS ARE PRESSING FOR ITS MENTAL
REGISTRATION ON FRIDAY, MARCH 14. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO
CONCUR.

2. THE PARA DEALS WITH PERMITS FOR RESIDENCE AND "OTHER
OFFICIAL PAPERS". THAT PHRASE IS AMBIGUOUS REFERENCE TO
VARIOUS KINDS OF PERMITS AND AUTHORIZATIONS JOURNALISTS NEED
TO EXERCISE THEIR PROFESSION. SOVIETS INSIST THAT ANY
LANGUAGE RELATING TO TIMELY ISSUANCE OF ALL SUCH PERMITS
MUST BE AMBIGUOUS IN CAST AND NOT REPEAT NOT EXPLICIT. THE
TIMING FACTOR (REF A PARA 2 A), ON WHICH SOVIETS ARE VERY
SENSITIVE, SLIDES IN ON THE "AND WHEN THESE ARE NECESSARY"
PHRASE. TEXT PRESENTLY IN PLAY READS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN QUOTE:

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--"FACILITATE THE ISSUE TO ACCREDITED JOURNALISTS
OF THE PARTICIPATING STATES OF PERMITS FOR STAY
IN THEIR COUNTRY OF TEMPORARY RESIDENCE, AND IF
AND WHEN THESE ARE NECESSARY, OF OTHER OFFICIAL
PAPERS WHICH IT IS APPROPRIATE FOR THEM TO HAVE." END QUOTE

3. THE SOVIETS' ADAMANT RESISTANCE TO ANY "AUTOMATICITY",
ESPECIALLY AS APPLIED TO TIMELY RESPONSE ON "OTHER PAPERS",
HAS BEEN THE PRINCIPLE DIFFICULTY IN THE DISCUSSIONS.
IN THE TWO WEEK PERIOD MANY FORMULATIONS WERE ATTEMPTED.
THE FINAL ONES WERE:

(A) AFTER "OFFICIAL PAPERS" IN ABOVE TEXT, SOVIETS
WANTED "REQUIRED OF THEM";

(B) WESTERN PREFERENCE WAS "REQUIRED OF THEM FOR
THE EXERCISE OF THEIR PROFESSION";

(C) SWISS TEXT (REFTEL C), WHICH READS "FACILITATE THE
OBTAINING OF OTHER PERMITS, IF THIS IS NECESSARY,
FOR SOJOURN IN THE COUNTRY OF TEMPORARY RESIDENCE AND THE
PURSUIT OF JOURNALISTIC ACTIVITIES"--I.E. NO BROAD ALLUSION
TO EXERCISE OF THEIR PROFESSION.

4. SOVIETS WOULD ACCEPT "AND WHEN" IN FIRST LINE
OF SWISS TEXT TO COVER TIME FACTOR, BUT WOULD NOT
CHANGE "IF AND WHEN THIS IS NECESSARY" TO "IF AND
WHEN THESE ARE NECESSARY"--THE BROADER REFERENCE TO ALL
PERMITS ETC NEEDED FOR EXERCISE OF JOURNALISTIC PRO-
FESSION. SOVIETS ALSO SAID "IF AND WHEN THIS IS NEC-
ESSARY" REFERRED ONLY TO "FACILITATE", AND NOT "PERMITS",
AND WAS THEREFORE NOT EVEN A CONDITIONAL COMMITMENT IN
THEIR VIEW TO MAKE A POSITIVE OR TIMELY RESPONSE TO
REQUESTS. FACED WITH ABOVE SITUATION, WE WORKED OUT
COMPROMISE TEXT IN PARA 2 AND REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO
MENTALLY REGISTER IT. DALE

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